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Message Text

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15
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-11 RSC-01

AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 OIC-04 /248 W
---------- 064669
P R 050816Z FEB 74
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3787
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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PASS STR

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, GATT
SUBJ: GATT TNC WORKING GROUPS - CHAIRMANSHIP

REF: GENEVA 379

BEGIN SUMMARY: MEETING OF KEY DELS FEB. 4 REAFFIRMED PREFERENCE STICK TO UNDERSTANDING REACHED AT 7 PLUS 7 JAN. 21 THAT GATT SEC SHOULD CHAIR ALL WGS FOR TIME BEING. JAPAN WILLING RIDE ALONG WITH THIS ALTHOUGH WOULD PREFER DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL REPS ASAP. DG ACQUIESCED ALTHOUGH HE WARNED OTHERS AUSTRALIA UNHAPPY. END SUMMARY

1. DG LONG ASKED REPS OF US,EC, FEDREP, JAPAN, BRAZIL, INDIA AND YUGO TO MEET WITH HIM LATE FEB. 4 TO DISCUSS CHAIRMENSHIP OF TNC WGS AND PROCEDURAL HANDLING OF THIS MATTER AT TNC FEB. 7. DG SAID WARWICK-SMITH (AUSTRALIA)
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AND NYERGES (HUNGARY) HAVE BOTH EXPRESSED INTEREST

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IN CHAIRING WG ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS. DG SAID HE
FELT IT IMPORTANT CHAIRMEN BE RESIDENT IN GENEVA
(NYERGES IS NOT). HE ASKED HOW DELS PRESENT VIEWED
SITUATION AND WHETHER OTHER CANDIDATES HAD COME TO
THEIR ATTENTION.

2. WE SAID OUR UNDERSTANDING WAS 7 PLUS 7 HAD ALREADY
AGREED JAN. 21 (REFTEL) SECRETARIAT SHOULD CHAIR
WGS AT LEAST FOR COMING MONTHS AND NOTED NO ONE HAD
REOPENED MATTER AT FEB. MEETING OF 7 PLUS 7 (GENEVA 663).
EC, FEDREP, BRAZIL AND INDIA PROMPTLY AGREED AND
REAFFIRMED THAT WAS THEIR PREFERENCE. AMB KITAHARA
WAS HESITANT: HE THOUGHT CHAIRMEN FROM NATIONAL DELE-
GATIONS MORE LIKELY PROVIDE IMPETUS TOWORK AND THOUGHT
IT SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO REACH CONSENSUS QUICKLY ON
ACCEPTABLE CHAIRMEN FOR SOME IF NOT ALL WGS. WE
REPEATED POINTS MADE BY MALMGREN JAN. 21. EC SUPPORTED
WITH CAVEAT EC WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE CHAIR FOR ANY TOPIC
HELD BY NATIONAL OF COUNTRY WITH STRONG NATIONAL POSI-
TION ON PARTICULAR SUBJECT NO MATTERHOW OBJECTIVE THE
INDIVIDUAL MIGHT BE. FEDREP OBSERVED IT WAS ILLUSORY TO
THINK CHAIRMEN COULD BE SELECTED WITHOUT GEOGRAPHIC/
POLITICAL FACTORS COMING INTO PLAY. DG OBSERVED
SECRETARIAT HAD CHAIRED ALL MULTILATERAL MEETINGS
THROUGHOUT KENNEDY ROUND WITH SINGLE EXCEPTION OF AD
HOC GROUP ON TARIFF DISPARITIES. KITAHARA SAIDHE
WOULD GO ALONG WITH CONSENSUS OF GROUP PRESENT BUT
THOUGHT CHAIRMENSHIP SHOULD NOT BE LEFT IN HANDS OF
SECRETARIAT THROUGHOUT MTN AND THEREFORE URGED THAT
AT FEB. 7 TNC IT SHOULD BE CLEARLY STATED THIS IS
TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT TO BE REASSESSED WHEN REAL
NEGOTIATING STAGE OF MTN REACHED AND THAT IT SHOULD
BE OPEN TO ANY WG TO APPOINT A CHAIRMAN FROM NATIONAL
DELEGATIOONS IF CONSENSUS CAN BE REACHED BY TRADITIONAL
INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AMONG DELEGATIONS.
YUGO REP CONFINED HIMSELF TO SAYING HE WOULD ACCEPT
CONSENSUS OF GROUP PRESENT.

3. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH DG REQUEST THAT ONE OF THE
KEY DELS SHOULD BE PREPARED AT TNC FEB. 7 TO PROPOSE
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SECRETARIAT CHAIR ALL WGS ON TEMPORARY BASIS. WE
AGREED PRIVATELY WITH EC TO CHECK WITH THEMJUST BEFORE
TNC STARTS TO DECIDE WHICH OF US WILL MAKE PROPOSAL TO
BE SECONDED BY THE OTHER.

4. AFTER MEETING, AMB KITAHARA TOLD US HE IS WORRIED
SECRETARIAT WILL ENDUP IN CHAIR THROUGHOUT MTN BY
DEFAULT, I.E. INABILITY AGREE IN FUTURE ON CANDIDATES

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MUTUALLY-ACCEPTABLE TO MAIN CPS. HE ALSO THINKS SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS ARE NOT VIGOROUS ENOUGH TO PROVIDE REAL LEADERSHIP WHEN NEGOTIATING STAGE REACHED. HE SAID HE ASKED LONG WHO SPECIFICALLY WOULD CHAIR RESPECTIVE GROUPS IF TNC AGREED FEB. 7 TO ASK SEC TAKE CHAIR. DG LISTED PASIN(DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT DIVISIONS) FOR 3F, LUCQ (DIRECTOR, AG DIVISION) FOR 3E, KAUTZOR-SCHRODER (DIRECTOR, GENERAL DIVISION) FOR 3B, AND TUMLIR (DIRECTOR, TRADE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION) FOR 3A. KITAHARA SAID HE ASSUMED WE KNEW US WOULD HAVE PROBLEMS IN 3E WG UNDER THIS PLAN AND ALSO THROUGHT 3B WOULD NOT HAVE MUCH LEADERSHIP. KITAHARA THINKS FRANCE IS PRESSING FOR CHAIRMANSHIP FOR SECRETARIAT PRECISELY TO ENSURE MINIMUM PRESSURE FOR PROGRESS FROM THE CHAIR. KITA-HARA SAID HE IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT WARWICH-SMITH'S POTENTIAL FOR UPSETTING WHOLE WORK PROGRAM BECAUSE OF PIQUE OVER BEING DENIED A CHAIRMANSHIP. KITAHARA NOTED W-S SAID AT FEB. 1 MEETING OF 7 PLUS 7 HE COULD NOT REPT NOT COMMIT AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO REMAIN SILENT AFTER EC MAKES ITS UNILATERAL DECLARATION ON AGRICULTURE; KITAHARA SURMISED W-S MAY WANT TO TRADE OFF HIS SILENCE ON THIS DELICATE ISSUE IN RETURN FOR CHAIRMANSIP OF ONE WG. KITAHARA SAID W-S HAS APPOINTMENT TO SEE LONG FEB. 5 AND SUGGESTED KEY DELS MIGHT HAVE TO CONSULT TO REASSESS SITUATION SHORTLY BEFORE TNC STARTS FEB. 7 IF HIS SUSPICIONS ARE CORRECT.DALE

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